

REMARKS

There remains in this application claims 1-16, of which claim 1 is independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. As the Examiner will appreciate, Applicant has amended the claims to now positively recite a sensor for detecting the presence or absence of the sheet at a second position upstream of the first position and now more clearly recite that the controller determines whether feeding a subsequent sheet is suspended at a third position between the first position and the second position based on an output signal from the sensor. Applicant respectfully submits that, with these amendments, the basis for the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, has been addressed and overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection under § 112 is now respectfully sought.

Claims 1-16 were identified as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submit that those claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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